



# In, Up and Mixed:

An Occasional Newsletter for the Planning Division, City of Fresno

**Volume 1:1 November 2008**

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## ***First County Island in 20 Years Annexed***

***Bruce Barnes, Project Manager***

Back in the 1940s the City of Fresno's urban boundary was described as a "meaningless zigzag maze that wandered in and out of the growing suburbs." People often didn't know whether they lived in or out of the City (See *Fresno County in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* 1986:61). The situation today is only a little better with eighteen county islands still within the City limits.

Recent legislation, however, has made it easier for the City to annex islands that are 150 acres or less and were created prior to January 1, 2001. The Planning Division is now proactively working with county residents to "bring them in." (see p. 2)

## ***"Shopping" at the DPC (Development Partnership Center) Franklin Spees, Planning Manager***

Looking for the best one-stop "shopping" for your project? The Development Partnership Center (DPC) was established in July 2008 to provide a systems change to our current Pre-Application Process. The DPC is intended to provide a customer friendly environment with accessible resources, allowing for a simple and integrated process for bringing the City organization and our development and construction industry partners together. The central goal of the DPC is high quality, timely, and predictable approvals of development applications. You are encouraged to drop by and get oriented on how to make this centralized resource work for you and the general public. Please call the DPC to schedule an orientation, meeting or just ask general questions: 559-621-8181.

About 20 years ago City Hall had an active county island annexation program (remember Dave Herb). The Program had a staff of 5-6 planners and they successfully reduced the number of residents residing in county islands from 90,000 to 42,000. The Program then went dormant, but was revived last year. We have set our sights on 9 county islands (representing about 4,000 island residents) and will add another 700 acres to the City. We completed our first island annexation this October and added another 500 residents and 83 acres to the City. We hope to complete the remaining 8 islands over the next year or so. The annexation of these islands will end the duplication of City and County services (fire, police, and solid waste) which often exists within County

islands and will end confusion when responding to police and fire emergency calls. In the long run this Program will save the taxpayers money and contribute to the financial stability of both the City and the County.

A special thanks is due to the "Annexation Team", including Dave Braun, Jeff Sorenson and Wilma Quan (PRA Group), the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Solid Waste Division, and the Department of Public Utilities. Also a special thanks to former Planning Director Nick Yovino for initiating the Program and current Interim Planning Director Keith Bergthold for his continued support.

**FIGURE 2 - ANNEXATION MAP**



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## Out and About:

### Planning Staff in the Community

**Karana Hattersley-Drayton (Historic Preservation Project Manager)** was the guest speaker for CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) at their October 1<sup>st</sup> lunch meeting. Topic: Fresno Green and historic preservation. She also represented the Green Team at the official dedication of the City's 3<sup>rd</sup> "Fresno Green" Project, La Querencia Co-Housing Project on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Karana and **Sophia Pagoulatos (Interim Planning Manager)** spoke to builders about the Fresno Green Incentive Building Program at the October 28<sup>th</sup> Builders' Workshop sponsored by PGE. Karana and local developer **Reza Assemi** hosted a table at the 19<sup>th</sup> **Annual Dinner in the Library** and led a lively discussion regarding preservation and development, downtown. **Donn Beedle (Planner III)** has served as the staff liaison to the Pinedale Community for the past several years. As he recalls, when he first started to work with them, "they wanted to lynch me!" Apparently they feel differently now and in late September wrote him a heartfelt note: "Your expertise and your loyalty to us has not gone unnoticed"!! Nice tribute Donn.



## Staff Recognition and Awards:

The Planning and Development Department received a **2008 Preservation Design Award** from the **California Preservation Foundation** for the publication "Architecture, Ethnicity and Historic Landscapes of California's San Joaquin Valley." The awards

banquet was held October 18th on the Queen Mary in Long Beach.



*Field with Bulldozers, Elaine Lynn*

Accepting the award for the City was Karana Hattersley-Drayton (Historic Preservation Project Manager/Executive Editor.) The publication was designed by Michael Parola and printed in-house, with **John DeLucia** at the press.

<b>Employees of the Quarter:</b>	
<b>Fall 08:</b>	<b>Jennfer Brown</b>
<b>Summer 08:</b>	<b>Israel Trejo</b>
<b>Spring 08:</b>	<b>Joann Zuniga</b>

The Department is also slated for recognition at a November 21<sup>st</sup> ceremony in Sacramento for a **2008 Governor's Historic Preservation Award for the Hotel Fresno Rehabilitation Feasibility Study**. The document was prepared by McCandless and Associates. **Darrell Unruh (Planning Manager)** will accept the award on behalf of the City.






*Nick Yovino poses with members of the Plan-ettes at the Department party given in honor of his retirement. Nick worked for the Planning Department for 37 years. Nick's comment, following the group's rendition of "Bye Bye Love," (with specialized lyrics for the occasion): "How did you get **Darrell Unruh** to sing with you?! (Darrell managed to slip away before this picture was snapped by Joann Zuniga)*



*Nick and Wilma Quan (PRA) at Department Party.*

***"He sure looks happy  
We sure are blue..."***  


### **Who Do You Call If:**

You need a **building permit**?

621-8084 (Vicki Bixler)

For general **planning** questions:

621-8277 (Cecilia Lopez)

Are starting a new **project**: 621-8180

(Susie Williams/Franklin Spees)

**Historic preservation, green building and public art**: 621-8520

(Karana Hattersley-Drayton)

**Tower District Design Review**:

621-8063 (Will Tackett)

**Fulton Lowell Design Review**:

621-8037 (Donn Beedle)

If there is a **vacant** building in your neighborhood: 621-8400

Helpful information for homeowners and **mortgage counseling**: 221-6919

**If your issue or request is not getting timely attention or a response from staff**: 621-8049 (Keith Bergthold, Interim Planning Director)

**In, Up and Mixed is published by the Planning Division on an occasional basis:**

**Editorial team**: Karana Hattersley-Drayton (Editor), Bruce Barnes and Sophia Pagoulatos

